

Open letter to the Member Countries of COFFIS

Delivering on COFFIS commitments in Santa Marta: lead the way to resilient and just energy systems that protect people, not fossil fuels

Dear Minister,

On 28 and 29 April, Governments will gather in Santa Marta, Colombia, to advance international cooperation on the transition away from fossil fuels. We urge you, as a COFFIS member, to lead the way by delivering on your promise to take concrete steps to address fossil fuel subsidies. This is essential to achieve long term energy security and craft a path towards socially-just and climate-resilient societies.

The Coalition on Phasing Out Fossil Fuel Incentives Including Subsidies (COFFIS) was launched in November 2023, with the aim to improve transparency, accelerate action and enhance international collaboration on subsidy reform. Through COFFIS, member governments committed to start publishing annual fossil fuel subsidy inventories within one year of signing and to develop a subsidy phase-out action plan within two years.

Yet, analysis by the COFFIS Observatory shows that signatories haven't consistently met their commitments: only three governments have submitted a valid inventory in 2025, and only one government has published a phase-out roadmap¹. The Santa Marta Conference is a critical moment for COFFIS members to get back on track, and demonstrate that fossil fuel subsidy reform is a critical tool to accelerate the just energy transition and achieve energy sovereignty.

The current fossil fuel supply and price shocks remind us more than ever that fossil fuel dependency makes our economies vulnerable to unstable global fossil fuel markets, with the most dire impacts being felt by the poorest. The more than one trillion USD poured into fossil fuels subsidies each year² haven't made our energy systems more resilient. They have fueled energy insecurity by artificially maintaining lower fossil fuel prices, thus discouraging the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and slowing down the much needed diversification of energy supply. And during energy price crises, consumer subsidy hikes haven't efficiently supported those most in need. Richer households often benefited the most, because of their higher energy consumption, while the fossil fuel industry and their shareholders were making

¹ [COFFIS Observatory](#) (2026).

² [Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker](#) (2026).

undue and outrageous windfall profits. Over time, subsidies are perpetuating climate harm and inequalities, and may be in breach of international law.³

In Santa Marta, COFFIS members can shape a meaningful response to the current crisis, by championing solutions that support the people and a just transition, rather than fossil fuel dependency. It means promoting immediate actions as alternatives to subsidies, such as direct cash transfers that shield vulnerable consumers, strict liability super funds, and excess profit or windfall taxes on the industry to prevent unfair profit-making. And it also means protecting the political momentum on subsidy reform, as a key structural lever to shift fiscal incentives towards renewable-based, resilient and secure energy systems.

We call on COFFIS members to use the Santa Marta conference to:

- Communicate release dates for their annual fossil fuel subsidy inventories and phase-out plans, in line with the COFFIS commitments. Transparency and predictability must remain a priority. Phase-out plans should incorporate measures to guarantee equity and justice, and take into account the true social and environmental cost of fossil fuel subsidies.
- Collectively pledge to introduce no new fossil fuel subsidies. Instead announce immediate measures to limit the impact of current and future crises on vulnerable consumers and industries.
- Collectively prioritise an immediate phase out of fossil fuel exploration and production subsidies as a first step towards a full phase-out as soon as possible. This is to protect consumers from future price volatility, reduce fossil dependence, and lower the burden on public finances

We count on you to live up to the spirit of COFFIS and work together to drive collective ambition and accountability for the transition away from fossil fuels. It is precisely in these moments that COFFIS members should demonstrate leadership.

Yours sincerely,

The COFFIS Observatory

The Climate Reality Project

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

³ International Court of Justice (2025), [Advisory Opinion on Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change](#).